

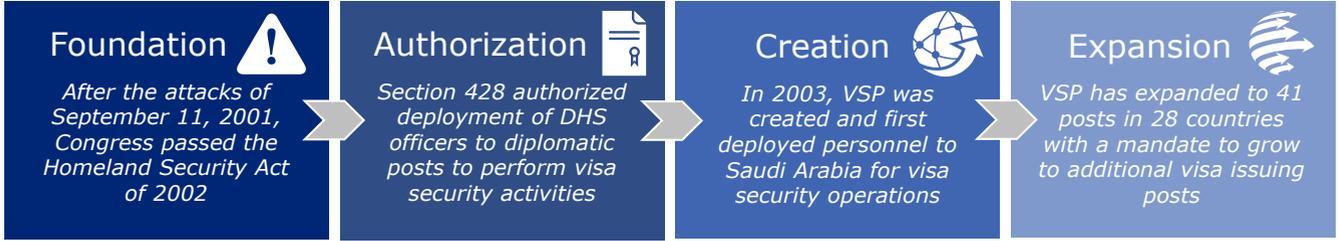


ICE HSI VISA SECURITY PROGRAM



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), through its Visa Security Program (VSP), assigns special agents to diplomatic posts worldwide to conduct law enforcement visa security activities and provide training to Department of State (DOS) offices regarding threats, trends, and other topics affecting visa adjudication

BACKGROUND



PROCESS

VSP utilizes the automated screening capabilities of the Pre-Adjudicated Threat Recognition and Intelligence Operations Team (PATRIOT) to focus on five key activities creating value at posts around the world



VALUE

Prior to DOS visa adjudication, VSP annually screens over 2 million applicants at 41 visa issuing posts in 28 countries, creating a technologically advanced investigative window of opportunity and generating the following operational value

Whole of Government Effort

Specially-trained HSI special agents collaborate with government partners at post to **promote a unified screening and vetting effort**, including over 11,000 coordination activities with government entities in FY20. Special agents provide training and advice to consular officers on identified threats to better inform visa adjudication decisions

Investigative Advantage

Deployed HSI special agents utilize DHS investigative resources including **comprehensive interviews at post** and coordination with host government partners to maximize law enforcement and counterterrorism value. Through their investigative efforts, VSP special agents **identify and disrupt previously unknown threats** posed by transnational terrorist and criminal networks, instead of solely recommending the denial of travel

The VSP exemplifies our government's commitment to maximize the visa process as a counterterrorism tool **to identify, exploit, and disrupt** transnational terrorist and criminal networks seeking to harm the United States

Pre-Adjudication Approach

VSP screening and vetting of visa applicants utilizes PATRIOT, an interagency endeavor with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), to **screen 100%** of NIV applications against **36 data points** prior to DOS adjudication. PATRIOT enables VSP to identify national security and other visa eligibility concerns at the **earliest point of an individual's visa application life-cycle**

Global Capacity for Growth

HSI uses an **established data-driven site selection methodology** to guide VSP expansion in a manner that develops the program's global capacity to protect U.S. national security. HSI is committed to the expansion of VSP operations, maximizing resources domestically and internationally to enhance the program's investigative efforts abroad